

methanol,

^{P2} b) the starch is brought by acid hydrolysis to a suitable mean molecular weight,

^{P2} c) the starch is subjected to an alkali wash,

^L d) the starch is hydroxyethylated by means of a hydroxyethylation agent under alkaline conditions,

^{P2} e) the molecular weight is exactly set by acid hydrolysis,

^L f) the hydroxyethyl starch thus obtained is purified, and

^L g) spray dried,

^{P1+10}
^{a'}
^{conced.} characterized in that the hydroxyethylation agent used is selected from the group consisting of 2-chloroethanol and ethylene oxide and the hydroxyethylation is carried out under alkaline conditions at room temperature.

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⁸ A starch of ⁴~~Claim 8~~ characterized in that the pH value is kept at a value of about 12 during the hydroxyethylation.

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¹⁰ A starch of ⁴~~Claim 8~~ characterized in that the temperature is kept at a value of about 20 to 25°C.

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¹¹ A starch of ⁴~~Claim 8~~ characterized in that the hydroxyethyl starch is purified by filtration and ultrafiltration.

REMARKS

New Claims 8 through 11, which are product-by-process claims, have been added hereto. Claims 1-3 are pending, remaining Claims 4-7 having been withdrawn from consideration.

Pursuant to a restriction requirement, Applicants affirm the provisional election of Group I (Claims 1-3) for prosecution at the present time. However, Applicants traverse the restriction requirement made by the Examiner.

According to the Examiner, the product claimed in Group I could be made by a process other than that recited in the claims of Group II, for example, by the process of GB 1 395 777. This assertion is traversed. The aim of the process of GB 1 395 777 is